

PANDOSTO.

The Triumph
of Time.

WHEREIN IS DIS-
couered by a pleasant Historie, that
although by the meanes of sinister fortune
Truth may be concealed, yet by Time in spite of fortune
it is most manifestly revealed.

Pleasant for age to auoide drowlie thoughts; profitable
for youth to eschew other wanton pastimes; and
bringing so both a desired content.

Temporis filia, veritas.

By ROBERT GREENE Master of Arts in Cambridge.

Omne sult punctum qui miscuit vile dolci.



Imprinted at London for George
Poser, dwelling at the signe of the Bible, neere
vnto the great North dore of
Paules, 1607.



TO THE GENTLE
men Readers, health.



HE paultry Poet APHRANIVS beeing
blamed for troubling the Emperour TRA-
IAN with so many doting Poëms: adven-
tured notwithstanding, still to present him
with rude and homely verses, excusing
himselfe with the curtesie of the Emperour, which did
as friendly accept, as he fondly offered. So Gentlemen, if
any condemne my rashnes for troubling your eares with
so many vnlearned Pamphlets, I will straight shroud my
selfe vnder the shadow of your courtesies, and with A-
PHRANIVS, lay the blame on you, as well for friendly
reading them, as on my selfe, for fondly penning them.
Hoping, though fond, curious, or rather curriish backbi-
ters breath out slaunderous speeches: yet the courteous
Readers (whom I feare to offend) will requite my trauell,
at the least with silence: and in this hope, I rest: wishing
you health and happinesse.

ROBERT GREENE.



TO THE RIGHT HO-
nourable George Clifford Earle of
Cumberland Robert Greene wishes increase of
of honour and vertue.



*THE Rascians (right honourable) when
by long gazing against the sun, they
become halfe blind, recover their
sights by looking on the black Londe-
stone: Vnicornes being glusted with
brousing on rootes of Lycoras, shar-
pen their stomacks, with crushing
bitter grasse.*

Alexander vouchsafed as well to smile at the crooked pic-
ture of Vulcan, as to wonder at the curious counterfeite of Ve-
nus. The minde is sometimes delighted as much with small
trifles as with sumptuous triumphes, and as well pleased with
hearing of Pans homely fancies, as of Hercules renowned la-
bours.

Sillie Baucis could not serue Iupiter in a siluer plate, but in
a wooden dish. All that honour Esculapius, decke not his
shrine with Jewels. Apollogiues Oracles as well to the poore
man for his mite, as to the rich man for his treasure. The stone
Echites is not so much liked for the colour, as for vertue: and
giftes are not to be measured by the worth, but by the will. Mi-
lon that unskilful Painter of Greece, aduentured to giue unto
Darius the shield of Pallas, so roughly shadowed, as hee smiled

The Epistle Dedicatorie.

more as the folly of the man, than at the imperfection of his Art. So I present unto your Honor The Triumph of Time, so rudely finished, as I feare your Honour will rather frowne at my impudencie, than laugh at my ignorance: But I hope my willing minde shall excuse my slender skill, and your Honours courtesie shadow my rashnesse.

They which feare the biting of Vipers, doe carie in their hands the plumes of a Phoenix. Phydias drew Vulcan sitting in a chaire of Inorie. Cæsars Crowe durst neuer crie, Aue, but when she was pearked on the Capitoll. And I seeke to shrowd this imperfect Pamphlet vnder your Honours Patronage, doubting the dint of such enuenuomed Vipers, as seeke with their staunderous reproches to carpe at all, being often times most vnelearned at all: and assure my selfe, that your Honors renowned valor, and vertuous disposition shall be a sufficient defence to protect me from the poysoned tongues of such scorning Sycophants, hoping that as Iupiter vouchsafed to lodge in Philemons thatched Cottage, and Philip of Macedon, to take a bunche of grapes of a Countrey Peasant: so I hope your Honour measuring my worke by my will, and waighing more the mind, than the matter, will (when you haue cast a glaunce at this toy) wish Minerva, vnder your goulden Target couer a deformed Owle. And in this hope I rest, wishing unto you, and the vertuous Countesse your wife, such happie successe as your Honours can desire or imagine.

Your Lordships most dutifull
to commaund,

ROBERT GREENE.

The Historie of *Dorastus* and *Fawnia*.



Among all the passions wherewith human minds are perplexed, there is none that so galleth with restless despight, as that infectious soze of *Jealousie*: for all other griefes are either to be appeased with sensible perswasions, to be cured with some counsel, to be relaxed in want, or by tract of time to be toozne out, *Jealousie* onely excepted: which is

lanced with suspicious doubts, & pinching mistrust, that who so seek by friendly counsell to rase out this hellish passion, it forthwith suspecteth that he giueth this aduise to couer his owne guiltinesse. Yea, who so is painted with this restless torment, doubteth all; distrusteth himselfe, is alwaies frozen with feare, and fired with suspicion, hauing that wherein consists all his ioy, to be the breeder of his misery. Yea it is such an heauy enemy to that holy estate of matrimony, sowing betwixen the married couples such deadly seedes of secret hatred, as loue being once rased out by spitefull distrust, there oft ensueth bloody reuenge, as this ensuing *Hystorie* manifestly proueth: wherein *Pandosto* (furiously incensed by a causelesse *Jealousie*, procured the death of his most louing and loyall wife, and his owne endlesse sorrow and misery.

In the Countrey of *Bohemia* there reigned a King called *Pandosto*, whose fortunate successe in warres against his foes, & bountifull courtesie towards his friends in peace, made him to be greatly feared and loued of all men. This *Pandosto* had to wife a Ladie called *Bellaria*, by birth royall, leained by education, faire by nature, by vertues famous: so that it was hard to iudge together her beautie, fortune, or vertue, was the

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greatest commendations. These two linked together in perfect love, led their lives with such fortunate content, that their subjects greatly reioyced to see their quiet disposition. They had not been married long, but fortune (willing to increase their happinesse) lent them a sonne, so adorned with the gifts of nature, as the perfection of the child greatly augmented the love of the Parents, the joy of their Commons : in so much that the Bohemians, to shew their inward ioyes by outward actions, made bonfires and triumphes throughout all the Kingdoms, appointing Justs and Turneyes for the honour of their young Prince : whither resorted not only his Nobles, but also diuers Kings and Princes which were his Neighbour, willing to shew their friendship they ought to Pandosto, and to win fame and glozie by their prowesse and valor. Pandosto, whose mind was fraught with Princely liberality, entertained the Kings, Princes, & Noblemen with such submisle curtesie, and magnificentall bounty, that they all saw how willing he was to gratifie their good wills, making a generall feast for his subjects, which continued by the space of xx. daies: all which time the Justs and Turneyes were kept to the great content both of the Lords and Ladies there present. This solemn triumph being once ended, the assembly taking their leave of Pandosto and Bellaria: the young sonne (who was called Garinter) was nursed up in the house, to the great joy and content of the parents. Fortune envious of such happy successe, willing to shew some signs of her inconstancy, turned her wheele, & darkened their bright sun of prosperitie, with the misty clouds of mishap & misery. For it so hapned that Egistus king of Syccilia, who in his youth had bene brought up with Pandosto, desirous to shew that neither tract of time, nor distance of place could diminish their former friendship, provided a navy of ships, & sailed into Bohemia to visit his old friend & companion: who hearing of his arrivall, went himselfe in person, and his wife Bellaria, accompanied with a great traine of Lords and Ladies, to meet Egistus: and espying him, alighted from his horse, embraced him very lovingly, protesting, that nothing in the world could have hapned more acceptable to him than his comming, wishing his wife to welcome his old friend and acquaintance: who (to shew how she liked him

him to home her husband loued) entertained him with such familiar ciuilitie, as Egistus perceiued himselfe to be verie well welcome. After they had thus saluted & embraced each other, they mounted again on horse-back, and rode toward the City, deuising and recounting, how being chilozen they had passed their youth in friendly pastimes: where, by the meanes of the Citizens, Egistus was receiued with triumphs and shewes in such sort, that hee marvelled how on so small a warning, they could make such preparation. Passing the streets thus with such rare sights, they rode on to the Pallace: where Pandosto entertained Egistus and his Sycilians with such banquetting & sumptuous chere, so royally, as they had all cause to commend his Princely liberalitie: yea, the very basest slave that was knowne to come from Sycilia was vsed with such curtesie, that Egistus might easily perceiue how both he and his were honored for his friends sake. Bellaria (who in her time was y^e flower of curtesie) willing to shew how vnfaignedly she loued her husband, by his friends entertainment, vsed him likewise so familiarly, that her countenance betwaxed how her mind was affected towards him: oftentimes comming her selfe into his bed chamber, to see that nothing shuld be amisse to mislike him. This honest familiarity increased daily more & more betwixt them: for Bellaria noting in Egistus a Princely and bountifull minde adozned with sundry & excellent qualities, and Egistus finding in her a vertuous and courteous disposition, there grew such a secret vniuing of their affections, that the one could not well be without the companie of the other: in so much that when Pandosto was busied with such vrgent affaires, that he could not be present with his friend Egistus, Bellaria would walke with him into the garden, & where they two in priuat pleasant deuises, would passe away their time to both their cōtents. This custome still continuing betwixt them, a certaine melancholy passion entring the mind of Pandosto, drowne him into sundry & doubtfull thoughts. First, he called to minde the beauty of his wife Bellaria, the comelinesse and bawery of his friend Egistus, thinking that loue was aboue all lawes, and therefore to be stayed with no law: that it was hard to put her and him together without burning: that their open pleasures might breed

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his secret displeasure. He considereth with himselfe that Egistius was a man: & must needs loue: that his wife was a woman, and therefore subiect to loue, & that where fancy forced, friendship was of no force. These & such like doubtful thoughts a long time smothering in his stomacke, began at last to kindle in his mind a secret mistrust, which increased by suspicion. grew at last to flaming ielousie, that so tormented him as he could take no rest. He then began to measure all their actions & misconference of their too private familiarity, iudging that it was not so; honest affection, but so; disordinate fancy. so as he began to watch them more narrowly, to see if he could get any true or certaine proofe to confirme his doubtfull suspicion. While thus he noted their looks & gestures, and suspected their thoughts & meanings, they two silly soules, who doubted nothing of this his trecherous intent, frequented daily each others company: which vnaue him vnto such a frantick passion, that he began to beare a secret hate to Egistius, & a loving countenance to Belaria, who maruelling at such vnaccustomed frownes, began to cast beyond the moone, & to enter into a 1000 sundry thoughts, which way she should offend her husband: but finding in her self a cleare conscience, ceased to muse, till such time as she might finde fit opportunity to demand the cause of his dumps. In the meane time, Pandosto's mind was so far charged with ielousie, that he no longer doubted, but was assured (as he thought) that his friend Egistius had entred a wrong point in his tables, & so had plaid him false play. Whereupon desirous to reuenge so great an injury, he thought best to dissemble the grudge with a faire & friendly countenance: & so vnder the shape of a friend to shew him the tricke of a foe. Denying with himselfe a long time how he might best put away Egistius without suspicion of trecherous murder, concluded at last to poyson him. Which opinio pleasing his humoꝝ, he became resolute in his determination: and the better to bring the matter to passe, he called to him his cup-bearer, with whom in secret he brake the matter: promising him so; the performance thereof, to giue him 1000 crownes of yearly reuenues. His cup-bearer, either being of a good conscience, or willing so; fashion sake to deny such a blow by request, began with great reasons to perswade Pandosto

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from his determinate mischiefe: shewing both what an offence murder was to gods, how much unnatural actions did more displease the heavens, than men, & that causelesse cruelty did al-
lome or neuer escape without reuenge: he layd befoze his face, that Egistus was his friend, a king, & one that was come into his kingdome; to confirme a league of perpetuall amitie betwixt them, that he had and did shew him a most friendly countenance, how Egistus was not only honoured of his owne people by obedience, but also loued of the Bohemians for his curtesie. And that if he now shuld without any iust or manifest cause, popson him, it would not onely be a great dishonour to his Maestie, and a means to sow perpetuall enmitie betwixen the Sycilians and the Bohemians, but also his owne subjects would repine at such treacherous cruelty. These and such like perswasions of Franion, (for so was his Cup-bearer called) could no whit preuaile to dissuade him from his diuelish enterprize: but remaining resolute in his determination (his fury so fired with rage, as it could not be appeased with reason) he began with bitter taunts to take up his man, and to lay befoze him two baits; preferment and death: saying that if he would popson Egistus, he should aduance him to high dignities: if he refused to doe it of an obstinate mind, no torture should be too great to requite his disobedience. Franion, seeing that to perswade Pandosto any more, was but to strine against the streame, consented, as soone as opportunity would giue him leave, to dispatch Egistus: wherewith Pandosto remained somewhat satisfied, hoping now he should be fully reuenged of such mistrusted iniuries, intending also as soone as Egistus was dead, to giue his wife a sop of the same sawce, & so be rid of those which were the cause of his restless sorrow. While thus he liued in this hope, Franion being secret in his chamber, began to meditate with himselfe in these termes.

Altho Franion, treason is loued of many, but the Traitor hated of all: vnjust offences may for a time escape without danger, but neuer without reuenge. Thou art seruant to a King, & must obey at command: yet Franion, against law & conscience, it is not good to resist a tyrant with armes, nor to please an vnjust king with obedience. What shalt thou doe? Fully refused
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gould,

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gold, a frenzie p̄ferment, wisedome seeketh after dignity, and counsell seeketh for gaine. Egistus is a stranger to thee, and Pandosto thy Soueraigne: thou hast little cause to respect the one, and oughtest to haue great care to obey the other. Thinke this Franion, that a pound of gold is worth a tunne of leade, great gifts are little Gods: and p̄ferment to a meane man, is a whetstone to courage: there is nothing sweeter than promotion, nor lighter than report: care not then though most count thee a traitor, so all call thee rich. Dignity (Franion) advanceth thy posterity, and euill report can hurt but thy selfe. Know this, where Eagles build, Falcons may pray: where Lions haunt, Foxes may scale. Kings are knowne to commaund, seruants are blamelesse to consent: feare not thou then to list at Egistus, Pandosto shall beare the burthen. Yea but Franion, conscience is a worme that euer biteth, but neuer ceaseth: that which is rubbe: with the stone Galactites will neuer be hot. Flesh dipped in the sea Egium, will neuer be firme: the hearbe Trigon, being once bit with an Aspis, neuer groweth, and conscience once stayned with innocent blood, is alwayes true to a guilty remorse. Preferre thy content before riches, and a cleare minde before dignitie: so being pure, thou shalt haue rich peace, or els rich, thou shalt enioy disquiet.

FRANION having murthered out these or such like words, seeing either he must die with a cleare minde, or liue with a spotted conscience: he was so combered with diuers cogitations that he could take no rest: untill at last he determined to b̄eake the matter to Egistus: but feareing that the King should either suspect or heare of such matters, he concealed the deuise till opportunity would permit him to reueale it. Ringring thus in doubtfull feare, in an euening he went to Egistus lodging, and desirous to b̄eake with him of certaine affaires that touched the King, after all were commaunded out of the chamber, Franion made manifest the whole conspiracie, which Pandosto had deuised against him, desiring Egistus not to account him a traitor: nor b̄euying his Masters counsell, but to thinke that he did it for conscience: hoping that although his Master inflamed with rage, or incensed by some sinister reports or slanderous speeches,

speeches, had imagined such causelesse mischiefes: yet when time should pacifie his anger, & try those tale-bearers but flattering Parasites, then he would count him as a faithfull servant, that with such care had kept his Passers credite. Egistus had not fully heard Franion tell forth his tale, but a quaking feare possessed all his limmes, thinking that there was some treason wrought, and that Franion did but shadow his craft with these false colours: wherefoze he began to waxe in choller, and said that he doubted not Pandosto; sith he was his friend, and there had neuer as yet bin any breach of amitie: hee had not sought to inuade his lannes, to conspire with his enemies, to diswade his subiects from their allegiance: but in word and thought he rested his at all times: he knew not therefore any cause that should moue Pandosto to seeke his death, but suspected it to be a compacted knauerie of the Bohemians, to bring the King and him at oddes. Franion staying him in the midst of his talke, told him, that to dally with Princes was with the Swannes to singe against their death, and that if the Bohemians had intended any such secret mischief, it might haue bene better brought to passe than by revealing the conspiracie: therefore his Maestie did ill to misse the use of his good meaning; sith his intent was to hinder treason, not to become a traytor: and to confirme his promises, if it pleased his Maestie to flye into Sicilia for the safegard of his life, hee would goe with him: and if then hee found not such a practise to be protested, let his imagined treacherie bee repayed with most monstrous torments. Egistus hearing the solempne protestation of Franion, beganne to consider, that in lone and Kingdomes, neither faith, nor lawe is to bee respected: doubting that Pandosto thought by his death to destroy his men, and with speedy warre to inuade Sicilia. These and such doubts thoroughly weighed, he gaue great thanks to Franion, promising if hee might with life returne to Syracuse, that hee would create him a Duke in Sicilia: crauing his counsell how hee might escape out of the Countrey. Franion, who having some small skill in Nauigation, was well acquainted with the Ports and Pannels, and knewe euerie danger in the Sea, taking in counsell with the Master of Egistus Shipp, rigged all their

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ships, and setting them a float, let them lie at anchor, to be in the more readinesse when time and wind should serue. Fortune although blind, yet by chance fauouring this iust cause, sent them within five daies a good gale of wind: which Franion seeing fit for their purpose, to put Pandosto out of suspicion, the night before they should saile, he went to him & promised, that the next day he would put the deuise in practice, for he had got such a terrible popson, as y^e very smell therof would procure sodain death: Pandosto was ioyfull to heare this good newes & thought euery houre a day till he might be glutted with bloody reuenge: but his suit had but ill successe. For Egistus fearing that delay might bringe danger, & willing that the grasse should not be cut from vnder his fate, taking bagge and baggage by the helpe of Franion, conueyed himselfe & his men out at a pofferne gate of the Citie so secretly, and speedily, that without any suspicion they got to the sea shoare: where, with many a bitter curse taking their leaue of Bohemia, they went aboarde, weighing their Anchors, & hoisting saile, they passed as fast as wind and sea would permit towards Syccilia: Egistus being a ioyfull man, that he had safely past such trecherous perils. But as they were quietly floating on the sea, so Pandosto, and his Citizens were in an uproare; for seeing that the Syccilians without taking their leaue were fled away by night, the Bohemians feared some treason: & the king thought that without question his suspicion was true, seeing his Cup-bearer had betrayed the sum of his secret presence. Whereupon he began to imagine, that Franion and his wife Bellaria had conspired with Egistus, and that the seruent affection he bare him, was the onely meanes of his secret departure: insomuch that incensed with rage, he commaunded that his wife should be carried to strait prison, vntill they heard further of his pleasure. The Guards vnwilling to lay their hands on such a vertuous Princeesse, and yet fearing the kings fury, went verie sorrowfull to fulfill their charge: coming to the Quenes lodging, they found her playing with her young sonne Garinter: vnto whom with feares doing the message, Bellaria astonished at such a hard censure, and finding her elere conscience a sure aduocate to pleade in her case, went to the prison most willingly: where with sighes and teares, she

past away the time till she might come to her triall.

But Pandosto, whose reason was suppressed with rage, and whose unbridled folly, was incensed with furie: seeing Franion had betrayed his secrets, and that Egistus might well be rayled on, but not revenged: determined to weake all his wrath on poore Bellaria. He therfore caused a generall proclamation to be made thzough all his Realme, that the Quene & Egistus had by the helpe of Franion, not onely committed most incestuous adultery, but also had conspired the Kings death: whereupon the Traitor Franion was fled away with Egistus, and Bellaria was most unjustly imprisoned. This proclamation being once blazed thzough the countrey, although the vertuous disposition of the Quene did halfe discredit the contents, yet the sodaine & speedy passage of Egistus, and the secret departure of Franion induced them (the circumstances thzoughly considered) to thinke that both the Proclamation was true, and the King greatly injured: yet they pitied her case, as sorrowfull that so good a Lady should bee crossed with such aduerse Fortune. But the King, whose restless rage would admit no pittie, thought that although hee might sufficiently requite his wines falsehood with the bitter plague of pinching penurie, yet his minde should neuer be gladded with reuenge, till he might haue fit time and opportunity to repay the trecherie of Egistus with a fatall injury. But a curst Cowe hath oft times shott hoznes, and a willing minde, but a weake arme. For Pandosto although he felt that reuenge was a spurre to warre, and that enuis alwayes profiteeth Steele, yet he saw, that Egistus was not onely of great puissance and prowesse to withstand him, but had also many Kings of his alliance to ayde him, if need should serue: for he married the Emperours daughter of Russia. These and the like considerations something daunted Pandosto his courage, so that hee was content rather to put by a manifest iniurie with peace, than hunt after reuenge, dishonour, and losse: determining since Egistus had escaped scot-free, that Bellaria should pay for all at an unreasonable price.

Remayning thus resolute in his determination, Bellaria continuing still in prison, and hearing the contents of the Proclamation, knowing that her minde was neuer touched with

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such affection, not that Egistus had euer offered her such discourses, would gladly haue come to her answere, that both she might haue knowne her iust accusers, and cleared her selfe of that guiltlesse crime.

But Pandosto was so inflamed with rage, and infected with Ielousie, as he would not vouchsafe to heare her, nor admit any iust excuse: so that shee was faine to make a vertue of her neede, and with patience to beare these heauie iniuries. As thus she lay crossed with calamities (a great cause to increase her griefe) she found her selfe quicke with childe: which aswone as she felt stir in her bodie, she burst forth into bitter teares, exclaiming against fortune in these termes.

ALas Bellaria, how infortunate art thou, because fortunate: Better thou hadst bene borne a beggar, than a Prince, so shouldst thou haue bided Fortune with want, where now she spoyleth her selfe with thy plentie. Ah happie life, where poore thoughts, and meane desires line in secure content, not fearing Fortune because too lowe. For Fortune, thou seest now Bellaria, that care is a companion to honor, not to pouertie: that high Cedars are fringed with tempests, when lowe shrubs are not toucht with the winde: pcerious Diamonds are cut with the file, when despised pebble lye safe in the sand. Delphos is sought to by Princes, not beggars: and Fortunes alters smoke with Kings presents, not with poore mens gifts. Happie are such Bellaria, that curse Fortune for contempt, not feare: and may wish they were, not sorrow they haue bene. Thou art a Princesse, Bellaria, and yet a prisoner: borne to the one by descent, assigned to the other by despise: accused without cause, and therefore sought to die without care; for patience is a shield against Fortune, and a guiltlesse minde yieldeth not to sorrow. Ah, but infamie galleth vnto death, and liueth after death: Repose is plumed with times feathers, and Enuie oftentimes soundeth Junes trumpet: thy suspected adulterie shall lye in the ayre, and thy knowne vertues shall lye hid in the earth; one spoile stayneth a whole face: and what is once spotted with Infamie, can hardly be wozne out with time. Die then Bellaria, Bellaria die; for if the Gods should say thou art guiltlesse,

yet

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yet enuie would heare the Gods, but neuer beleue the Gods. Ah haplesse wretch, cease these tearmes: desperate thoughtes are fit for them that feare shame, not for such as hope for credit. Pandosto hath darkened thy fame, but shall neuer discredit thy vertues. Suspicion may enter a false action, but praise shall neuer put in his plea: care not then for enuie, sith report hath a blister on her tongue: and let sorrow bite them which offend, not touch thee that are faultlesse. But alas poore soule, how canst thou but sorrow? Thou art with child, and by him that instead of kind pittie, pincheth thee in cold prison. And with that, such gasping sighes so stopping her breath, that she could not utter any more words, but wringing her hands, and gushing forth streames of teares, she passed away the time with bitter complaints.

The Fayloz pitying those her heavy passions, thinking that if the king knew she were with child, he would somewhat appease his fury & release her from prison, went in all hast, and certified Pandosto what the effect of Bellarias complaint was: who no sooner heard the Fayloz say she was with childe, but as one possessed with a phrenzie, hee rose vp in a rage, swearing y she, and the bastard bzat she was withall, should die, if the gods themselves said no: thinking that surely by computation of time, that Egillus and not he, was father to the child. This suspicious thought galled a fresh this halfe healed soze, insomuch as hee could take no rest, untill hee might mitigate his choler with a iust reuenge, which happened presently after. For Bellaria was brought to bed of a faire & beautifull daughter: which no sooner Pandosto heard, but hee determined that both Bellaria and the young infant should be burnt with fire. His Nobles, hearing of the kings cruell sentence, sought by perswasions to direct him from his bloody determination: laying befoze his face the innocency of the child, and vertuous disposition of his wife, how shee had continually loued and honoured him so tenderly, that without due praise he could not, nor ought not to apprehend her of that crime. And if she had faulted, yet it were more honorable to pardon with mercy, than to punish with extremity, and more kingly, to be commended of pittie, than accused of rigour. And as

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for the child, if hee should punish it for the mothers offence, it were to strine against nature and iustice: and that vnnaturall actions do moze offend the Gods, than men: how canselesse cruelty, noz innocent blood neuer escapes without reuenge. These and such like reasons could not appeale his rage, but he rested resolute in this, that Bellaria being an Adulteresse, the child was a Bastard, and he would not suffer that such an infamous byat should call him father. Yet at last (seeing his noble men were impoztunate vpon him) he was content to spare the childs life, and yet to put it to a moze death. For he found out this deuise, that seeing (as he thought) it came by fortune, so he would commit it to the charge of fortune, and therefore he caused a little cocke-boat to be pzonided, wherin he meant to put the babe and then send it to the mercies of the Seas, and the destinies. From this his Weres in no wise could perswade him, but that he sent presently two of his guard to fetch the child: who being come to the prison, and with weeping teares recounting their Masters message: Bellaria no sooner heard the rigorous resolution of her mercilesse husband, but she fell doونه in a swoond, so that all thought she had been dead: yet at last being come to her selfe, she cryed and scritch'd out in this wise.

A Las sweete infortuneate babe, scarce bozne before enuied by fortune, would the day of thy birth had been the terms of thy life: then shouldst thou haue made an end to care, and pzenented thy fathers rigour. Thy faults cannot yet deserue such hatefull reuenge, thy dayes are too short for so sharpe a doome, but thy vntimely death must pay thy Mothers debts, and her guiltlesse crime must be thy gaskly curse. And shalt thou sweete Babe be committed to fortune, when thou art already spited by fortune? Shall the Seas be thy harbour, and the hard boat thy cradle? Shall thy tender mouth, in stead of sweete kisses, be nipped with bitter stormes? Shalt thou haue the weeping winndes for thy Lullabye, and the salt Sea some in stead of sweete milke? Alas, what destinies would affligge such hard hap? What father would be so cruell? What Gods will not reuenge such rigoz? Let me kisse thy lippes (sweete Infant) and wet thy tender cheekes with my teares, and put this chaine

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about thy little necke: that if fortune saue thee, it may helpe to succour thee. Thus, since thou must goe to surge in the gallfull seas, with a sorrowfull kisse I bid thee farewell, and I pray the Gods thou mayst fare well. Such, and so great was her grieffe, that her vitall spirits being suppressed with sorrow, she fell againe downe into a traunce, hauing her senses so sotted with care, that after she was reuiued, yet shee lost her memorie, and lay for a great time without knowing, as one in a traunce. The guard left her in this perpleritie, and carried the child to the King: who quite deuoid of pittie, commanded that without delay it should be put into the boate, hauing neither saile nor rudder to guide it, and so to be carried into the midst of the sea, and there left to the winde and waues, as the deities please to appoint. The verie Ship-men, seeing the sweet countenance of the young babe, began to accuse the King of rigour, & to pitie the childes hard fortune: but feare constrained them to that, which their nature did abhorre: so that they placed it in one of the ends of the boate, and with a few greene bowes made a homely cabin to shrowd it as they could from wind and weather. Hauing thus trimmed a boat, they tyed it to a ship, and so haled it into the maine sea, and then cut in sunder the corde: which they had no soner done, but there arose a mightie tempest, which tossed the little boate so vehemently in the waues, that the ship-men thought it could not continue long without sinking: yea, the storme greiue so great, that with much labour and perill they got to the shore. But, leauing the child to her fortunes, againe to Pandosto: who not yet gluffed with sufficient reuenge, deuised which way hee should best increase his wiues calamitie. But first assembling his Nobles and Counsellours, hee called her (for the more reproach) into open Court: where it was objected against her, that she had committed adulterie with Egistus, and conspired with Franion to poison Pandosto her husband. But their pretence being partly spied, she counselled them to slye away by night, for their better safetie. Bellaria (who standing like a prisoner at the bar, and feeling in her selfe a cleere conscience to withstand her false accusers) seeing that no lesse than death could pacifie her husbands wrath, waxed bold, and desired that she might haue law

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and Justice (for mercie she neither craved nor hoped) and that that those perjured wretches, which had falsely accused her to the King, might be brought before her face, to give in evidence. Pandosto (whose rage and iealousie was such, as no reason, nor equitie could appease) told her, that for her accusers, they were of such credite, as their wordes were sufficient witnessse, and that the subdaine and secret flight of Egistus and Franion, confirmed that which they had confessed: and as for her, it was her part to denie such a monstrous crime, and to be impudent in so swearing the fact, since she had passed all shame in committing the fault: but her pale countenance should stand for no coyns: for, as the ballard which she bare was serued, so she should with some cruell death be requited. Bellaria no whit dismayed with this rough reply, told her Husband Pandosto that he spake upon choler, and not conscience: for her vertuous life had euer bene such as no spot of suspicion could euer staine. And if she had boyn a friendly countenance to Egistus, it was in respect he was his friend, and not for any lasting affection: therefore if she were condemned without any further proofe, it was rigour, and not lawe. The Noblemen which sat in iudgment, sayd that Bellaria spake reason, and intreated the King that the accusers might bee openly examined, and sworne: if then the evidence were such, as the Iurie might finde her guilty (for seeing she was a Prince she ought to be tryed by her Peeres): then let her haue such punishment as the extremitie of the lawe will assigne to such malefactors. The King presently made answer, that in this case he might, and would dispence with the lawe: and that the Iurie being once panneled, they should take his word for sufficient evidence: other wise he would make the proudest of them repent it. The Noblemen seeing the King in choler, were all whist: but Bellaria whose life then hung in the balance fearing more perpetuall infamie than momentary death, told the King, if his Iurie might stand for a lawe, that it were better to haue the Iurie paye their verdict, & therefore she fell downe vpon her knees, and desired the King that for the loue bee bare to his young Sonne Garter, whome she brought into the world, that he would graunt her a request, the which was this: that it would please his Maiestie to send six of his

his Noble men whom he best trusted, to the Isle of Delphos, there to enquire of the Oracle of Apollo, whether she had committed adulterie with Egistus, or conspired, to poyson him, with Franson: and if the God Apollo, who by his diuine essence knew all secrets, gaue answers that she was guiltie, she were content to suffer any torment, were it neuer so terrible. The request was so reasonable, that Pandosto could not for shame denie it, vnlesse hee would be counted of all his subiects more wilfull than wise. He therefore agreed that with as much speed as might be there should be certaine Embassadors dispatched to the Isle of Delphos: and in the meane season hee commaunded that his wife should be kept in close prison. Bellaria hauing obtayned this graunt, was now more carefull for her little babe that floated on the seas, than sorrowfull for her owne mishap. For of that she doubted: of her selfe she was assured: knowing if Apollo should giue Oracle according to the thoughts of the heart, yet the sentence should goe on her side: such was the clearnesse of her minde in this case. But Pandosto (whose suspicious head still remained in one song) chose out five of the Nobilitie, whome hee knewe were scarce indifferent men in the Quenes behalfe, and prouiding all things fit for their iourney, sent them to Delphos. They, willing to fulfill the Kings command, and desirous to see the situation and custome of the Island, dispatched their affaires with as much speede as might be, and embarked themselves to the voyage: which (the wind and weather seruing fit for their purpose) was soon ended. For within three weekes they arriued at Delphos: where they were no sooner sette on land, but with great deuotion they went to the Temple of Apollo, and there offering sacrifice to the God, and gifts to the Priest, as the custome was, they humbly craved an answer of their demand. They had not long kneeled at the Alter, but Apollo with a loude voice said: Bohemians, what ye stand behinde the Alter, take, and depart. They forthwith obeying the Oracle, found a scroule of parchment wherin was written these words in letters of gold.

The Oracle.

Suspicion is no prooffe: Iealousie is an vnequall Iudger:
Bellaria is chaste: Egistus blamelesse: Franson a true

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sublett: *Pandosto* treacherous: his babe an innocent,
and the King shall die without an heire: if that which
is lost be not found.

As sone as they had taken out this scroule, the Priest of the God commaunded them that they should not presume to read it, befoze they came in the ptesence of Pandosto, vnlesse they would incurre the displeasure of Apollo. The Bohemian Lordes carefully obeying his commaund, taking their leaue of the Priest, with great reuerence departed out of the temple, and went to their Shippes: and as sone as winde would permit them, sayled towards Bohemia where in short time they safely arriued, and with great triumph yssuing out of their Shippes went to the Kings palace, whom they found in his chamber accompanied with other Noble men. Pandosto no soner sawe them, but with a merrie countenance he welcmed them home, asking what newes? They told his Maestie, that they had receiued answer of the God wzitten in a scroule: but with this charge, that they shuld not read y^e cōtents befoze they came in the ptesence of y^e King: and with that they deliuered him the parchment. But his Noble men intreated him, that sith therein were contayned either the safetie of his wiues life and honor, or her death and perpetuall infamie, that he would haue his Nobles and commons assembled in the iudgement hall: where the Quene brought in as a prisoner, should heare the Contents. If she were found guiltie by the Oracle of the God, then all should haue cause to thinke his rigor proceded of due desert: if her Grace were found faultlesse, then she should be cleared befoze all, sith she had been accused openly. This pleased the King so, that he appointed the day, and assembled all the Lords and Commons, and caused the Quene to be brought in befoze the iudgement seate, commaunding that the inditement should be read: wherein she was accused of adulterie with Egiptus, and of conspiracie with Franion, Bellaria hearing the contents, was no whit astonished, but made this cherefull answer.

If the diuine powers bee priuie to humane actions (as no doubt they are) I hope my patience shall make fortune blush,
and

and my vnspotted life shall staine spitefull discredite. For although lying report hath sought to appeach mine honoz, and inspition hath intended to soyle my credite with infamie: yet where vertue keepeth the sozt, report and suspition may assaile, but neuer sacke. Now I haue led my life befoze Egistus coming, I appeale (Pandofto) to the Gods, and to thy conscience. What hath passed betwene him and mee, the Gods onely know, and I hope will presently reueale. That I loued Egistus, I cannot denie: that I honoured him, I shaine not to confesse. To the one I was forced by his vertues: to the other for his dignities. But as touching lasciuious lust, I say Egistus is honest, and hope my selfe to be found without spot: for Franion, I can neither accuse him, nor excuse him: for I was not partie to his departure: and that this is true which I haue here rehearsed, I referre my selfe to the diuine Oracle.

Bellaria had no soner saide, but the King commaunded that one of the Dukes should read the contents of the scroull: which after the Commons had heard, they gaue a great shoute, reioycing and clapping their hands that the Quene was clere of that false accusation: but the King, whose conscience was a witnesse against him of his wittlesse furie, and false suspected Jealousie, was so ashamed of his rash folly, that he intreated his Nobles to perswade Bellaria to forgive, and forget these iniuries, promising not onely to shew himselfe a loyall and louing husband, but also to reconcile himselfe to Egistus and Franion: reuealing then befoze them all the cause of their secret flight, and how treacherously he thought to haue practised his death, if the god minde of his cup-bearer had not preuented his purpose. As thus hee was relating the whole matter, there was word brought him, that his young Sonne Garinter was suddainly dead: which newes so sone as Bellaria heard, surcharged befoze with extreamie ioy, and now suppressed with heavy sorrow, her vitall spirites were so stopped, that she fell doونه presently dead, and could neuer be reuiued. This suddaine sight so appalled the Kings senses, that hee sunke from his seat in a swoone, so as he was faine to be caried by his Nobles to his Pallace, where hee lay by the space of thre dayes without speech.

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Commons were as men in dispaire, so diuersly distressed; there was nothing but mourning & lamentation to be heard through out all Bohemia: their young Prince dead, their vertuous Queene bereaued of her selfe, and their King and his iuraigns in great hazard: this tragicall discourse of Fortune so daunted them, as they went like shadows, not men: yet somewhat to comfort their heauie hearts, they heard that Pandosto was come to himselfe, and had recovered his speech: who as in following bryed out these bitter speeches.

O Miserable Pandosto, what surer witness than conscience what thoughts more sower than suspicion? What plague more bad than Jealousie? Unnaturall actions offend the Gods, more than men: and causelesse crueltie neuer escapes without reuenge. I haue committed such a bloodie fact, as repent I may: but recall I cannot. Ah Jealousie, a hell to the minde and a horroz to the conscience, suppressing reason, and inciting rage: a worse passion than phrenzic, a greater plague than madness. Are the Gods iust? Then let them reuenge such brutish crueltie: my innocent Babe I haue drowned in the seas: my louing wife I haue slaine with slanderous suspicion: my trusty friend I haue sought to betray, and yet the Gods are slacke to plague such offences. Ah vniust Apollo, Pandosto is the man that hath committed the fault; why should Carinter, scely child abide the paine? What sith the Gods meane to prolong my daies, to increase my dolour, I will offer my guiltie blood a sacrifice to those sackelesse soules, whose liues are lost by my rigorous folly. And with that he reached at a rapier to haue murdered himselfe: but his Deeres being present, stayed him from such a bloody act: perswading him to thinke, that the common wealth consisted on his safety, and that those shays could not but perish, that wanted a shepheard: wishing, that if hee would not liue for himselfe, yet he should haue care of his subjects, and to put such fancies out of his minde: sith in sores past helpe, salues do not heale, but hurt: and in things past cure, care is a coxasine: with these and such like perswasions the King was overcome, and began somewhat to quiet his minde: so that assured as he could goe aboarde, he caused his wife to be embalmed, and

wath

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Wapt in lead with her young Sonne Garinter: erecting a rich
and famous Sepulchre, wherein he intombeth them both, ma-
king such solempne obsequies at her Funerall, as all Bohemia
might perceiue he did greatly repent him of his forpast folly:
causing this Epitaph to be ingrauen on her Tombe, in letters
of gold.

The Epitaph.

*Here lyes entombde Bellaria faire,
Falsly accused to be vnchast:
Cleered by Apollos sacred dooms,
Yet slaine by Iealousie at last.*

*What ere thou be that passest by,
Curse him that causde this Queene to dye.*

This Epitaph being engrauen, Pandosto would once a day
repaire to the Tombe, and there with watry plants be-
waile his misfortune: coueting no other companion but so-
row, nor no other harmonie, but repentance. But leaving him
to his dolozous passions, at last let vs come to shew the tragi-
call discourse of the young Infant.

Who being tossed with winds, and waves, floated two
whole dayes without succour, ready at euery puffe to
be drownd in the Sea: till at last the tempest ceased, and the
little Boate was driuen with the tide into the coast of Sycilia:
where sticking vpon the Sands, it rested. Fortune winding
to bee wanton (willing to shew that as she hath wrinkles on
her browes: so she hath dimples in her cheekes) thought after
so many fower looks, to lend a fained smile: and after a puffing
swoime, to bring a pretty calme: she began thus to dally. It for-
tuned a poore mercenarie Shepheard, that dwelled in Sycilia,
who got his liuing by other mens flockes, missed one of his
shepe, and thinking it had strayed into the covert that was hard
by, sought very diligently to find that which he could not see, fea-
ring either that the Wolves or Eagles had vndone him (for hee
was

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was for poze, as a shepe was halfe his substance) wandered
before to wards the sea cliffs, to see if perchance the shepe was
browzing on the sea Iuie, whereon they doe greatly feede. But
not finding her there, as he was readie to returne to his flocke,
he heard a childe cry: but knowing there was no house nare,
thought he had mistaken the sound, and that it was the bleating
of his shepe. Wherefore looking more narrowly, as he cast his
eye to the sea, he spied a little boat: from whence (as he atten-
tively listned) he might heare a crie to come. Standing a good
while in a maze, at last he went to the shoare, and wading to the
boate, as he looked in, he saw a little babe lying all alone, readie
to dye for hunger and cold, wrapped in a Mantle of Scarlet,
richly embzoadered with gold, and hauing a Chaîne about the
necke. The Shepheard, who before had never sene so faire a
babe, nor so rich Jewels, thought assuredly, that it was some
little God, and beganne with great deuotion to knocke on his
bzeast. The babe, who writhed with the head to sake for the pap,
began againe to cry afresh: whereby the poze man knew that
it was a Child, which by some sinister meanes was giuen the-
ther by distresse of weather: marnailing how such a silly Infant,
in hich by the Mantle, and the Chaîne, could not but be borne
of noble Parentage, should be so hardly crossed with deadly mis-
hap. The poze shepheard, perplexed thus with diuers thoughts,
tooke pittie of the Child, and determined with himselfe to carry it
to the King, that there it might be brought vp, according to the
worthinesse of birth: for his abilitie could not afford to foster
it, though his mind was willing to further it. Taking therefore
the Child in his armes, as he foulded the Mantle together, the
better to defend it from the cold, there fell downe at his feet a bo-
rie faire and rich purse, wherein he found a great summe of gold:
which sight so reuiued the shepheards spirits as he was greatly
rانشed with ioy, and daunted with feare: ioyfull, to see such
a summe in his power: fearefull, if it should be knowne, that it
might bzade his further danger. Perceiuitie with him at the
least, to retaine the gold, though he would not keepe the Child:
the simplicitie of his conscience feared him from such deceitfull
bziberie. Thus was the poze man perplexed with a doubtful
Dilemma, vntill at last the consciousness of the cogne ouercame
him.

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him: for what will not the greedy desire of golde cause a man to doe? So that he was resolved in himselfe to foster the child, & with the summe to relieue his want. Kissing thus resolute in this point, he left seeking of his sheepe, and as secretly & secretly as he could, went by a by-way to his house, least any of his neighbours should perceiue his carriage. As soone as he was got home, entring in at the doze, the child began to cry. Which his wife hearing, and seeing her husband with a young babe in his armes, began to be somewhat iealous: yet marveling that her husband should be so wanton abroad, sith he was so quiet at home. But as women are naturally given to beleue the worst, so his wife thinking it was some bastard, began to crow against her good man: and taking vp a cudgell (for the most matter went by achilles) swore solemnly that she would make clubs trumps, if he brought any bastard hzat within her dozes. The goodman seeing his wife in her maiestie, with her space in her hand, thought it was time to bowe for feare of blowes, and desired her to be quiet, for there was no such matter: but if she could hold her peace, they were made for euer. And with that he told her the whole matter: how he had found the child in a little Boate without any succour, wrapped in that costly Mantle, and having that rich chaine about the neck: but at last when he shewed her the purse full of gold, she began to amper something sweetly. And taking her husband about the necke, kissed him after her homely fashion: saying, that she hoped God had saued their want, and now meant to relieue their poverty, and seeing they could get no childzen, had sent them this little Babe to be their heire. Take heede in any case (quoth the shepheard) that you be secret, and blabbe it not out when you meet with your Gossippes. For if you doe, we are like not onely to lose the gould and Jewels, but our other goods and lines. Lush (quoth his wife) profite is a good hatch befoze the doze: Feare not, I haue other thinges to talke of, than this: but I pray you let vs lay vp the money surely, and the Jewels, least by any mishap it be espied. After that they had set all things in order, the shepheard went to his sheepe with a merry note, and the good wife learned to sing Lullaby at home with her young babe, wrapping it in a homely blakket, instead of a rich mantle,

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nourishing it so cleanly and carefully as it began to be a folly
 Gyle: insomuch that they began both of them to be verie fond
 of it, and as it waxed in age, so it increased in beautie. The
 shepheard euerie night at his coming home, would sing and
 daunce it on his knee, and prattle that in a short time it began
 to speake and call him Dab, and her Ham. At last, when it
 grew to ripe yeeres, that it was about seauen yeeres old, the
 shepheard lest haping of other mens shepe and with the mo-
 ney he found in the purse, he bought him the lease of a pretty
 Farme, and got a small flocke of shepe: which when Fawnia
 (so they named the child) came to y^e age of ten yeeres, he set
 her to keepe shepe: and shee with such diligence perfo^rmed her
 charge, as the shepe prospered maruailously vnder her hand.
 Fawnia thought Porrus had bene her ffather, and M^r p^rsa her
 Mother (so so was the shepheard and his wife called) honou-
 red and obeyed them with such reuerence, that all the neigh-
 bours praysed the dutifull obedience of the childe. Porrus
 grewe in short time to be a man of some weal hand and credite.
 For fortune so fauoured him in hauing no charge but Fawnia,
 that he began to purchase Land, intending after his death to
 giue it to his Daughter: so that diuers rich Farmers Wenches
 came as lovers to his house. For Fawnia was something clean-
 ly attyzed, being of such singular beautie and excellent witte,
 that who so sawe her, would haue thought she had been some
 heavenly Simph and not a mortall creature. Insomuch that
 when she came to the age of sixtene yeeres, she so increased
 with exquisite perfection both of bodie and mind, as her natu-
 rall disposition did betwray that she was borne of some high
 parentage. But the people thinking she was daughter to the
 shepheard Porrus, rested onely amazed at her beautie and wit.
 Yea she won such fauor and commendations in euerie mans
 eye, as her beautie was not onely praysed in the Countrey, but
 also spoken off in the Court. Yet such was her submisse mode-
 stie, that although her praise daily increased, her mind was no
 whit puffed up with pride, but humbled her selfe as became a
 countrey-maid, & the daughter of a poore shepheard. Euery day
 she went forth with her shepe to the field, keeping them with
 such care and diligence, as all men thought she was very pain-
full,

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full, defending her face from the heat of the Sunne with no other vaile, but with a Garland made of Bowes and flowers. Which attires became her so gallantly, as she seemed to be the Goddesse Flora her selfe for beautie. Fortune, who all this while had shewed a friendly face, began now to turne her backe, and to shew a looazing countenance: intending as she had giuen Fawnia a slender check, so she would giue her a harder mate. To bring which to passe, she laide her traine on this wise: Egistus had but one only sonne called Dorastus, about the age of twenty yeeres: a Prince so decked and adornoed with the gifts of nature, so fraught with beauty and vertuous qualities, as not onely his father ioyed to haue so good a sonne but all his commons reioyced that God had sent them such a noble Prince to succede in the Kingdome. Egistus, placing all his ioy in the perfection of his sonne (seeing that he was now marriageable) sent Embassadors to the King of Denmarke, to intreat a marriage betwene him and his Daughter. Who willingly consenting, made answer, that the next spring, if it pleased Egistus with his sonne to come into Denmarke, he doubted not, but they should agree vpon reasonable conditions. Egistus resting satisfied with this friendly answer, thought convenient in the meane time to breake it vnto his Sonne. Finding therefore on a day fit opportunitie, he spake to him in these Fatherly termes.

Dorastus, thy youth warneth me to prevent the worst, and mine age to provide the best. Opportunities neglected are signes of folly: actions measured by time, are seldome bitten with repentance: thou art young, & I old: age hath taught me that, which thy youth cannot yet conceiue.

I therefore will counsell thee as a Father, hoping thou wilt obey as a Childe. Thou seest my white haire is blossomes for the graue: and thy fresh colours, fruite for time and Fortune; so that it becometh me to thinke how to die, and for thee, to care how to liue. My Crowne I must leane by death, and thou enjoy my Kingdome by succession. Wherein I hope thy vertue and prouewle shall be such, as though my Subiects want my person, yet they shall see in thee my perfection. What

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nothing either may saile to satisfie thy minde, or increase thy dignities: the onely care I haue, is to see thee well married before I die, and thou shalt come old.

Dorastus (who, from his fancie, delighted rather to die with Mars in the field, than to bally with Venus in the Chamber) feareing to displease his Father, and yet not willing to be wed, made him this reuerent answer.

SIR, there is no greater bond than dutie. nor no stricter lawe than nature: disobedience in youth, is often galled with despight in age. The command of the Father ought to be a constraint to the child: so, Parents wils are lawes, so they passe not all lawes. May it please your Grace therefore, to appoint to home I shall lone: Rather than by demall I should be approached of disobedience, I rest content to loue, though it be the onely thing I hate.

Egistus hearing his Sonne to flye farre from the marke, began to be somewhat cholericke, and therefore made him this bawky answer.

WHAT Dorastus, canst thou not lone? Commeth this Enuicall passion of psons desires, or pernitish forwardnes? What, dost thou thinke thy selfe too good for all, or none good enough for thee? I tell thee Dorastus, there is nothing sweeter than youth: nor swifter decreasing, while it is increasing. Time past with folly may be repented, but not recalled. If thou marrie in age, thy wines freeth colours will breed in thee dead thoughts and insipition, and thy white hairees her loathsome smell and sorrow. For Venus affections are not fed with Kingdomes, or treasures; but with youthfull conceits and sweet amours. Vulcan was allotted to make the tree, but Mars allowed to reape the fruite. Præib Dorastus to thy fathers persuasions, which may preuent thy perils. I haue chosen thee a wife, faire by nature, royall by birth, by vertues famous, learned by education, and rich by possessions: so that it is hard to iudge whether her bountie, or fortune; her beautie, or vertue, be of greater force: I meane (Dorastus) Euphania, daughter and heire to the King of Denmarke.

Egistus

Egistus pausing here a while looking when his sonne should make him answer: and seeing that he stood still, as one in a trauince, he shooke him vp thus sharply.

Well Dorastus take heede, the Tree Alpya wasteth not with fire. but withereth with dew: that which loue nourisheth not, perisheth with hate. If thou like Euphania thou breedest my content, and in louing her thou shalt haue my loue: otherwise: and with that he slung from his sonne in a rage, leauing him a sorrowfull man, in that he had by deniall displeased his father: and halfe angry with himselfe that he could not yeild to that passion, whereto both reason and his Father perswaded him. But see how Fortune is plumed with times feathers, and how she can minister strange causes to breed strange effects.

It happened not long after this, that there was a meeting of all the farmers daughters in Syrcilia, whither Fawnia was also bidden as the Distresse of the feast: who hauing attired her selfe in her best garments, went amongst the rest of her companions to the merry meeting: there spending the day in such homely pastime as shep-heards vse. As the euening grew on, and their sports ceased, each taking their leaue of other, Fawnia desiring one of her companions to beare her companie, went home by the flocks, to see if they were well folded. And as they returned, it fortuned that Dorastus (who all that day had bene hauing and killing flocks of game) incountred by the way these two maides: and casting his eye suddenly on Fawnia, he was halfe affraid, fearing that with Acteon he had seen Diana: for he thought such exquisite perfection could not be found in any mortall creature. As thus he stood in a maze, one of his Pages told him, that the maid with the garland on her head, was Fawnia the faire shepheard, whose beauty was so much talked of in the Court. Dorastus, desirous to see if nature had adorned her minde with any inward qualities, as she had decked her bodie with outward shape, began to question with her whose daughter she was, of what age, and how she had bene trained vp: who answered him with such modest reuerence & sharpnes of wit, that Dorastus thought her outward beauty was but a

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counterfeit to darken her inward qualities: wondering how so courtly behaviour could be found in so simple a Cottage; and cursing fortune, that had shadowed wit and beautie with such hard fortune: And thus he held her a long while with chaffe. Beautie seeing him at discouert, thought not to lose the baggage, but strooke him so deeply with an inuened shaft, as he wholly lost his libertie, and became a slave to Love: which befoze condemned Love glad now to gaze on a prize she heard, who befoze refused the offer of a rich Princeesse. For the perfection of Fawnia had so bred his fancie, as he felt his mind greatly changed, and his affections altered; cursing loue that had wrought such a change and blaming the baseness of his mind that would make such a choyle. But thinking these were but passionate toys, that might be thrust out at pleasure: to auoid the Syren that enchanted him, he put spurs to his horse, and bad this faire shepherd farewell.

Fawnia (who all this while had marked the Princely gesture of Dorastus) seeing his face so well featured, and each lim so perfectly framed, began greatly to praise his perfection, commending him so long, till she found her selfe faulty: and perceived that if she waded but a little further, she might slip over the shores. Shee therefore seeking to quench that fire which neuer was put out, went home, and saying her selfe not well at ease, got her to bed: where casting a thousand thoughts in her head, she could take no rest. For if she had waked, she began to call to minde his beauty: and thinking to beguile such thoughts with sleepe, she then dreamed of his perfection. Perplexed thus with these vnacquainted passions, she passed the night as she could, in short slumbers.

Dorastus (who all this while road with a flea in his eare) could not by any meanes so get the sweete fauour of Fawnia, but rested so bewitched with her wit and beautie, as he could take no rest. He felt fancie to giue the assault, and his wounded minde ready to yeeld as vanquished; yet he began with diuers considerations to suppress his franticke affection, calling to minde, that Fawnia was a shepherd, one not worthy to be looked at of a Prince; much lesse to be loued of such a Potentate: thinking what a discredit it were to himselfe, and what a griefe

Dorastus and Fawnia.

griefe it would be to his father: blaming fortune, and accusing his own folly, that should be so fond as but once cast a glance at such a cuntry flat. And as thus he was raging against himselfe, Loue (feeling, if she dally long, to lose her Champion) kept more nigh and gave him such a fresh wound, as it pierst him at the heart, that he was faine to yeld, mangle his face, and to forsake the companie, and get him to his Chamber, where being solemnly set, he burst int: these passionate terms.

As Dorastus art thou alone? No not alone, while thou art tyed with these vnacquainted passions. Yeld to fancie thou canst not by thy fathers counsell: but in a frenzie thou art, by iust destinies. Thy father were content, if thou couldest loue: and thou therefore discontent, because thou dost loue. A diuine Loue, feared of men, because honoured of the Gods: not to be suppressed by wisdom, because not to be comprehended by reason: without Law, and therefore above all law.

How now Dorastus, why dost thou blaze that with praises, which thou hast cause to blaspheme with curses? Yet why should they curse Loue, which art in Loue?

Blasht Dorastus at thy fortune, thy choise, thy loue: thy thoughts cannot be bittered without shame, nor thy affections without discredit. Ah Fawnia, sweet Fawnia, thy beauty Fawnia.

Shamest not thou Dorastus, to name one unfitte for thy birth, thy dignities, thy Kingdomes? Dye Dorastus, Dorastus dye. Better hadst thou perisht with high desires, than live in base thoughts. Yea but he my must be obeyed, because it is beautie: yet framed of the Gods to save the eye, not to setter the heart.

Ah, but he that striueth against Loue, sheweth with them of Scyrum against the winde, and with the Cockatrice pecketh against the scale. I will therefore obey, because I must obey. Fawnia, yea Fawnia shall be my fortune, in spite of Fortune. The Gods above disdain not to loue women beneath. Phœbus liked Sybilla; Iupiter, Io: and why not I then Fawnia: some something inferiour to these in birth: but farre superiour to them in beautie: bozne to be a Shepheard, but woorthy to be a Goddesse.

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Ah Dorastus, wilt thou so forget thy selfe as to suffer affection to suppress wisdom, and Loue to violate thine honour? How soeuer wilt thy choise be to thy Father, sorrowfull to thy subiects, to thy friends a griefe, most glad some to thy foes: Subdue then thy affection, and cease to loue her whome thou condest not loue, vnlesse blinded with too much loue. Last I talke to the wind, & in faking to pzeuent the causes, I further the effects. I will yet praise Fawnia, honour, yea and loue Fawnia, and at this day follow content, not counsell. Doe Dorastus, thou canst but repent: and with that, his Page came into the chamber: wherupon he ceased from complaints, hoping that time would weare out that which fortune had wrought. As thus he was pained, so pwe Fawnia was diuersly perplexed. For the next morning getting vp verie early, she went to her sheepe, thinking with hard labours to passe away her new conceiued amours, beginning verie busily to digne them to the field, and then to shift the folds. At last (wearied with toyle) she sate her downe, where (pwe soule) she was moze tyed with fond affections. For loue began to assault her: insomuch, that as she sate vpon the side of a hill, she began to accuse her owne folly in these termes.

Infortunate Fawnia, and therefore infortunate because Fawnia, thy shepheards booke sheweth thy pwe estate, thy proud desires an aspiring mind: the one declareth thy want, the other thy pride. No bastard Painke must soare so high as the Hobby: no fowle gaze against the Sunne, but the Eagle: actions wrought against nature, reape despyght: and thoughts above Fortune, disdaine.

Fawnia, thou art a shepheard, Daughter to pwe Porrus: if thou rest content with this, thou art like to stand: if thou climbe, thou art sure to fall. The hearbe Anna growing higher than sixe inches, becommeth a weede. Nylus stowing moze than twelue Cubits, procureth a dearth. Daring affections, that passe measure, are cut short by time or fortune. Suppress then Fawnia, those thoughts which thou mayest shame to expresse. But ah Fawnia, loue is a Lord: who will command by power, and constrain by force.

Dorastus

Dorastus and Fawnia.

Dorastus, *Oh Dorastus is the man I love: the worse is the
day, and the lesse cause hast thou to hope. Will Eagles catch
at fieses will Cedars shoope to humbles grow: mightie Wythes
like at such homely trolles: No no: think this Dorastus, his
name is greater then thy desire. He is a Prince, respecting his
honor: thou a beggar, hast forgetting the calling. Cease then
not onely to say, but to thinke to love Dorastus and dissemble
thy love Fawnia. For better it were to dye with griefe, than to
live with shame. Yet in despight of love I will sigh, to see if I
can sigh out love.* Fawnia, somewhat appeasing her griefes
with the pitythie persuasions, began after her wonted manner
to walke about her chape, and kept her from Craving into
the corne suppressing her affection with the due consideration
of her base estate: with the impossibilitie of her love: think-
ing it were frensie (not fancies) to count that which the very
destinies denie her to obtaine.

But Dorastus was more impatient in his passion: for
love so fiercely assailed him, that neither companie, nor du-
stie could mitigate his martyrdomme: but did rather sacre
the more increase his malady. So shame would not let him crave
counsell in this case: nor feare of his Fathers displeasure re-
pelle it to any secret friend: but he was faine to make a se-
cretarie of himselfe, and to participate his thoughts with his
owne troubled minde. Lingring thus a while in doubtfull sus-
pence, at last breaking secretly from the Court without any thet
men or Wages, hee went to see if he could scape himselfe walk-
ing abroad in the field, as an one having a great desire more
skill to retaine the Warriodge with his topanike than to hunt
after such a strange pray: he sought, but was as little the better.
(Which crosse lucke drove him into a great choler,) that he be-
gan both to accuse love and fortune. But as he was ready to
repent, he saw Fawnia sitting all alone under the shue of an hill,
making a Garland of such homely flowers as the fieldes did
afford. This sight so revived his spirit, that he began to sigh
with more iudgement to take a view of her singuler perfecti-
on, which he found to be such, as in that countrey little the
Fained all the courtly Dames of Sicilia. While thus he stood
gazing, with peering eyes on her surpassing beauty,

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Fawnie, that her eye awoke, and aspyed Dorastus. Which sodaine
sight was the paye giue to blissh, & to die her chylde all chaikes
with a sweetenion yea: which gaue her such a grace, as the sa-
med face might be beautiful And with that she rose vp, saluting
the Prince with such modest carresses, as he wondered he to a
country Maide should afford such courtly behaviour. Dorastus
repaying her courtesie with a smiling countenance, began to
parle with her on this manner: 31 1913 12107

Faire maide (quoth he) whether your want is great, or a shep-
heardes life very sweete, these your delights in such countrey
labours, I cannot imagine what pleasure you should take
unles you meane to imitate the simples; being your selfe so
like a simple. Now put me out of this doubt, shew me what is
to be commended in a shepheares life, and what pleasures you
haue to countervail these vjudging labours. Fawnie, with
blisshing face, sayd him this answer: 22 1913 12107

What richer state than contentment, what sweeter life than
quiet? The shepheards are not vaine to hono, nor beholding
vnto beautie; least case we haue to leaue same, or sojorne. The
soul is our attiraunce though, if warme thought and our soule
daintie, if sufficient nature: our greatest enemy is the world.
our soule care, in safe keeping our flock in weare of courtly dis-
ties, we spend the dayes with countrey songs: our honourous
contents are homely thoughtes: delighting as much to talke of
Pan and his countrey pannes, as I abbe to tell of Venus and
her handmaiden Cupid: as to be in the midst of the folkes, and look-
ing to the Ladies, and their labours of singing and telling tales,
homely pleasures to our greater wealth, yea, so to court our hono,
not to climb: our quiter, not to care, and yet to be so lowe
as shepheards: to shepheards, and to high ambition: we
are rich to see a turnep, as to see a crown: and so on in
this, that we haue no cause to be proud, of good and bad.

This twitty answer of Fawnie to the Prince Dorastus, sent
his heart commended himselfe for makinge a good a choice
thinking, if her by he were another answer, yet he had been

tie, that she were a fit mate for the most famous Prince in the world. He therefore began to list her choze narrowly on this manner.

FAwnia, I see thou art content with countrey labours, because thou knowest not Courtly pleasures: I commend thy wit, and pittie thy want. But wilt thou leane thy fathers cottage, and serue a Courtly mistresse?

Sir, quoth she) beggers ought not to stryue against Fortune, nor to gaze against honour: least either their fall be greater, or they become blinde. I am borne to toyle for the Court, not in the Court: my nature bitteth for their nature better liue in meane degree, than in high disdaine.

Well sayd Fawnia (quoth Dorastus) I gesse at thy thoughts thou art in loue with some countrey Shepheard.

No Sir (quoth she) Shepheards cannot loue, that are so simple: and maides may not loue that are so young.

Say therefore (quoth Dorastus) maides must loue because they are young: for Cupid is a childe, and Venus, though old is painted with fresh colours.

I grant (sayd she) age may be painted with new shadowes, and youth may haue imperfect affections: but, what art concealeth in one, ignorance reuealeth in the other. Dorastus seeing Fawnia held him so hard, thought it was vaine so long to beate about the bush: therefore he thought to haue giuen her a fresh charge: but he was so preuented by certaine of his men: who mistaking their maister, came posting to seeke him, seeing that he was gone south all alone: yet before they dyet so nigh that they might here their talke, he vsed these speeches.

Why Fawnia, perhaps I loue thee, and then thou must needs yelde: for thou knowest I can commaund and constrain. Trueth Sir (quoth she) but not to loue: for constrained loue is force, not loue: and here in this Sir, mine honesty is such, as I had rather dye, than to be a Concubine euen vnto a King: and my birth is so base as I am vnsit to be a wife vnto a poore Farmer.

Why then (quoth he) thou canst not loue Dorastus? Yes sayd Fawnia, when Dorastus becomes a Shepheard: and with that the presence of his men broke off their parle, so that

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he went directly thence to the palace, and left Pawns sitting still
on the hill-side. who, seeing that the night drew on, thrust her
foulbes, and busied her selfe about other worke, to drive away
such fond fancies as began to trouble her bryaine. But all this
could not prevaile, for the beauty of Desdemona had made such
a deep impression in her heart, and it could not be tooke out
without scratching: so that she was forced to blame her owne
folly, in this wise.

A Fawnia: Why dost thou gaze against the Sunne, as
I catch all the winter: so stars are to be looked at with the eye
not reached at with the hand: thoughts are to be measured by
Foztunes, not by desires: fallies come not by sitting low, but
by climbing too high: What then, shall all feare to fall, because
some hap to fall: No: lucke cometh by lot, and foztune twin-
deeth of ethreads which puzellies spin. Thou art favoured
Fawnia of a Prince, and yet thou art so fond to reject desired
fauours: thou hast deniall at thy tongues end, and desire at thy
heartes bottome: a womans fault, to spurne at that with her
fate which she greedily catcheth at with her hand: thou louest
Dorastus, Fawnia; and yet thou wilt to labour: Take heed, if
he retire, thou wilt repent: for thou wilt be lone, thou canst not
dye. Die then Fawnia: so Dorastus will be selfe. The Lyon
never preyeth on the mouse: no: so Faulcons scope to dead
fowles. Sit downe then in this sad role: cease to loue, & content
thy selfe, that Dorastus will purchase foz to flatter Fawnia,
though not to sanctifie Fawnia. Neighbour: A foole, if were
familiar: foz thee to whistle as a shepheard, than to sigh as a
louer; and with that shee ceased from these perplexed passions:
solding her sheepe, and being home to her poore cottage. But
such was the inconstant sorow of Dorastus, to thinke on the
wit and beauty of Fawnia: and to see how fond he was, be-
ing a Prince: and how from a rich he was; being a begger: that
he began to lose his wonted appetite, to looke pale and wan:
instead of mirth, to feede on melancholly: for Courtly vanities,
to vse colde outpates. Insomuch, that not onely his olde men,
but his father, and al the Court began to maruaile at his so-
daine change, thinking of some lingering sickness had bygone
him

Dorastus and Fawnia.

him into this state. Wherefore he caused Whistons to come, But Dorastus neither would let them minister, nor so much as suffer them to see his hazine: but remained still so oppressed with these passions, as he feared in himselfe a farther inconueni- ence. His honor wished him to cease from such folly: but loue forced him to follow fancie: yea, and in despite of honor loue wonne the conquest, so that his hot desires caused him to finde new deuises. For he presently made himselfe a Shepheards coat, that he might go vnknowne, and with the lesse suspicion to prattle with Fawnia: and conueyed it secretly into a thicke groue hard adioynning to the Palace: whether, finding fit time and opportunity he went all alone, and putting off his princely apparell, got on those shepheards robes: and taking a great booke in his hand (which he had also gotten) he went verie auerily to find out the mistress of his affection. But as he went by the way, seeing himselfe clad in such baseness ragges, he began to smile at his owne folly, and to reprove his fondnesse in these termes.

Well sayd Dorastus, thou keepst a right decorous base desires and homely attires: thy thoughts are fit for none but a Shepheard, and thy apparell such as onely become a Shepheard. A strange change: from a Prince, to a peasant. What is it thy wretched fortune, or thy wilfull folly? Is it thy curst destinies, or thy crooked desires, that appointeth thee this penance? Ah Dorastus thou canst but loue: and hies thou loue, thou art like to perish for loue. Yet, fond sole, chuse flow- ers, not weeds; Diamonds, not peables: Lables, which may honor thee: not Shepheards which may disgrace thee. Venus is painted in silkes, not in ragges: and Cupid treadeth on silke, when he reacheth at dignity. And yet Dorastus, shame not at the shepheards wage, the haughty Gods haue sometime earely thoughts. Neptune became a Ramme, Iupiter a Bull, Apollo a Shepheard, they Gods and yet in loue: and thou a man appointed to loue. Deuising thus with himselfe, he came right to the place where Fawnia was keeping her sheepe: who casting her eyes on him, and seeing such a manerly shepheard, perfectly admired

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and coming with so good a pace, she began halfe to forget Dorastus, and to fauour this pretty shepheard, whom thought she might both loue & obtaine. But as she was in these thoughts, she perceined then, it was the yong prince Dorastus: wherefore she rose vp; and reuerently saluted him, Dorastus taking her by the hand, repaid her curtesie with a sweet kisse, and praying her to sit downe by him, he began thus to lay the battery.

If thou marmeile Fawnia at my strange attyre, thou wilt best moze misse at mine vnaccustomed thoughts: the one disgraceth but my outward shape, the other disturberh my inward senses: I loue Fawnia, and therefore what loue liketh, I cannot mislike. Fawnia thou hast promised to loue, and I hope thou wilt performe no lesse: I haue fulfilled thy request, and now thou canst not but graunt my desire. Thou wert content to loue Dorastus: when hes ceast to be a prince, and become a shepheard: and so, I haue made a change, and therefore not to misse of my choice.

Tutth, quoth Fawnia: but all that were coules are not spoukes. Painted Eagles are pictures, not Eagles: Zeuxis Grapes were like Grapes, yet had noolues: rich cloathing make not princes: nor homely attyre, beggers: shepheards are not called shepheards, because they weare hokes and bags: but they are boyne paze, and liue to keepe shepe: so this attyre hath not made Dorastus a shepheard: but to seme like a shepheard.

Well Fawnia, answered Dorastus: were I a shepheard, I could not but like thee: being a prince I am soze to loue thee. Take heed Fawnia, be not proud of beauties painting: for it is a flower that fadeth in the blossome. Whose which disoatne in youth, are vespiled in age. Beauties that doines are fricht by with times colours: which being set to dye in the sunne are stained with the sunne, scasse pleasing the sight, yet they begin not to be worthy sight: not much vnlike the beards Ephimoron, which flourish in the morning, and is withered before the sunne setting. If my desire were
against

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against lawe, thou mightest iustly deny me by reason: but I loue thee Fawnia: not to misuse thee as a Conciubine, but to vse thee as my wife: I can promise no more, and mean to performe no lesse.

Fawnia hearing this solemne protestation of Dorastus, could no longer withstand the assault, but yielded by the force, in these friendly tearmes.

As Dorastus, I shame to expresse that thou forcest me with thy sugred speech to confesse: my base birth causeth the one, and thy high dignities the other. Beggars thoughts ought not to reach so farre as kings, and yet my desires reach as high as Princes. I dare not say Dorastus, I loue thee because I am a shepheard: but the Gods know I haue honoied Dorastus; (pardon if I say amisse) yea and loued Dorastus with such dutifull affection as Fawnia can performe, or Dorastus desire: I will not overcome with prayers, but with loue: resting Dorastus hand-maide ready to obey his will if no preiudice at all to his honor, nor to my credit.

Dorastus hearing this friendly conclusion of Fawnia, embraced her in his armes, swearing that neither distance, time, nor aduerse fortune should diminish his affection: but that in despite of the destinies he would remain toyfull vnto death. Waning thus plight their troth each to other, seeing they could not haue the full fruition of their loue in Scyeilia; so that Egistus consent would neuer bee granted to so mean a match; Dorastus determined as sone as time and oportunitie would giue him leaue, to prouide a great masse of money, and many riche and costly Jewels, for the easier carriage: and then to transpozt themselves and their treasure into Italia, where they should lead a contented life, vntill such time as eyther he could be reconciled to his father, or else by success come to the Kingdome. This deuise was greatly praised of Fawnia: for she feared, if the king his father should but heare of the contract, that his fury would be such, as no lesse than death would stand for payment. He therefore tolde him that vniuersal danger, that many mischances did fall out betwixt the

cup

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cup and the lip: and that to auoyde anger, it were best with as much speede as might be, to passe out of Seycilia, least Fortune might pzenent their pzetence with some hein despight. Dorastus, whome loue pzked forward with desire, promised to di patch his affaires with as great hast, as either time or opportunity would giue him leaue: & so resting vpon this point, after many embzacings and swete kisses, they departed. Dorastus, hauing taken his leaue of his best beloued Fawnia, went to the grove where he had his rich apparell, & there vncasheg himselfe as secretly as might be, hiding vp his shepheards attyre, till occasion should serue againe to vse it: he went to the Pallace, shewing by his merry countenance, that either the state of his body was amended, or the case of his mind greatly redressed. Fawnia poye soule was no lesse ioyfull, that being a sheheard, Fortune had fauoured her so, as to reward her with the loue of a Prince: hoping in time to be aduanced from the daughter of a poore Farmer, to be the wife of a rich King. So that she thought enery houre a yeare, till by their departure they might pzenent danger: not ceasing still to goe enery day to her shepe: not so much for the care of the flocke, as for the desire she had to see her loue and Lord Dorastus: who oftentimes when opportunitie would serue, repayed thither to feede his fantic with his sweet content of Fawnias pzetence. And although he neuer went to visite her, but in his shepheards ragges, yet his oft repaire made him not onely suspected, but knowne to diuers of their neighbours: who, for the good will they bare to old Porrus, told him secretly of the matter, wishing him to keepe his daughter at home, least shee went so off to the field, that she brought him home a young son. For they feared that Fawnia being so beautifull the yong Prince would allure her to folly. Porrus was stricken into a dumpe of these newes, so that thanking his neighbours for their good will, he hyed him home to his wife: and calling her aside, washing his hands, and shewing forth teares, hee bzake the matter to her in these tearmes.

I Am a fraide wife, that my daughter Fawnia hath made her selfe so sure, that she will buy repentance too deare. I haue

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names; which if they be true, some will wish they had not pro-
ved true. It is told me by my neighbours, that Dorastus the
kings sonne begins to looke at our daughter Fawnia: which if
it be so, I will not give her a halfe pennie for her honestie; at
the yeares end. I tell the wife, now a daies beantie is a great
Rale to trap young men, and faire words and sweete promises
are two great enemies to maidens honestie: and thou knowest,
where wize men intreat and cannot obtaine, there Princes
may command, and will obtaine. Though things seeme
harmlesse in nets, they may not be sene: but wize mens faultes
are spyed at a little hole. Well, it is a hard case where things
lost are lawes, and that they should binde wize men to that
which they themselves wilfully breake.

Peace husband (quoth his wife) take heede what you say:
speake noe more than you should, least you heare what you
would not. Great streames are to be stopp'd by sleight, not by
force: and Princes to be perswaded by submission, not by ri-
gor: doe what you can, but no more than you may: least in sa-
ving Fawnias maiden head, you lose your owne head. Take
heede I say, it is ill telling with edged toles, and bad sport-
ing with kings. The Wolfe had his skin pulled over his eares, for
but looking into the Lions Den. Wifely wife (quoth he) thou
speakest like a foole: if the King should know that Dorastus
had gotten our daughter with child (as I feare it will fall out
little better) the Kings furie would be such, as no doubt we
should both lose our goodes and lives: were it better to have
a lawe, and I will present this mischance with a new device
that is come into my head, which shall neither offend the King,
nor displease Dorastus. I meane to take the chains and the
jewels that I found with Fawnia, and carry them to the King,
telling him then to understand how she is now of my daugh-
ter, but that I found her beaten by with the water alone in a
little boate, whapped in a rich mantle, wherein was inclosed
this treasure. By this means I hope the King will take
Fawnia into his service, and we whatsoeuer chaunceth, shall be
harmlesse. This device pleased the good wife verie well, so
that they determined allone as they might know the Kings at-
tendance, to make him privie to this case.

Dorastus

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Dorastus was not slacke in his affaires; but applied his mat-
ters with such diligence, & he provided all things fit for their
journey. Treasure and iewels he had gotten great store, think-
ing there was no better friend than money in a strange
country: rich attyre he had provided for Fawnia: and because
he could not bring the matter to passe without the helpe and
advice of some one, he made an old servant of his called Cap-
nio, who had serued him from his child-hood, priuie to his af-
faires: who, seeing no perswasions could preuaile to winnet him
from his settled determination, gaue his consent, and dealt so
secretly in the cause, that within short space he had gotten a
ship ready for their passage. The partners, seeing a fit gale
of winde for their purpose, wished Capnio to make no delays,
least if they permitted this good weather, they might stay
long yet they had such a faire winde. Capnio, fearing that his
negligence should hinder the journey, in the night time con-
veyed the Trunkes full of Treasure into the shippe, and by se-
cret means let Fawnia understand, that the next morning
they meant to depart: she vpon this newes slept very little
that night, but got her vp betime early, and went to her cheere,
looking every minute when she should see Dorastus: who tar-
ried not long, for feare delay might bringe danger: but came
as fast as he could gallop, and without any great circumstance
tooke Fawnia by behinde him, and rode to the Haven where
the shippe lay, which was not three quarters of a mile distant
from that place. He no sooner came there, but the partners
were ready with their cock-boate to set them aboard: where
being caught together in a Cabin, they pass away the time in
recounting their old stories, till their man Capnio could come.
Portus, who had heard that this morning the King would go
aboard to take the air, called in hast to his wife to bring him
his holy water, and his best Jacket, that he might not be like
an honest substantiall man to tell his tale. His wife being
ready to obey, brought him all things fit, and spunged him
up very handsomely, giving him the chain and the Jewels in a
little box, which Portus for the more safetie put in his bosome.
Having thus all his trimme in a readines, taking his leave
in his hand, he bid his wife bid him for good lucke, and so he

went towarde the Pallace. But as he was going, Fortune (who meant to shew him a litle false play) presented his purpose in this wise.

He mette by chaunce in his way Capnio, who trudging as fast as he could with a litle coffer vnder his arme to the ship, and spying Porrus, whom he knew to be Fawnias Father, going towards the Pallace: being a wily fellow, began to doubt the worst, and therefore cross him the way, and askt him whether he was going so early this morning.

Porrus (who knew by his face that he was one of the Court) meaning simply, told him that the Kings sonne Dorastus dealt hardly with him: for he had but one Daughter who was a litle beautifull, and that his neighbours tolde him, the young Prince had allured her to folly: he went therefore now to complain to the King how greatly he was abused.

Capnio (who straight way smelt the whole matter) began to sooth him in his talke, and sayd, that Dorastus dealt not like a Prince to spoyle any poore mans daughter in that sort: he therefore would doe the best for him he could, because he knew he was an honest man. But (quoth Capnio) you lose your labour in going to the Pallace: for the King means this day to take the ayre of the Sea, and to go aboard of a ship that lyes in the Haven: I am going before, you see, to provide all things in a readinesse: and if you will follow my counsell, turne backe with me to the Haven, where I will set you in such a fit place as you may speake to the King at your pleasure. Porrus giving credit to Capnios smooth tale, gaue him a thousand thanks for his friendly aduise, and went with him to the Haven, making all the way his complaint on Dorastus; yet concealing secretly his chaine and the Jewels. As soon as they were come to the Sea side, the Mariners seeing Capnio, came a land with their Cock-boate: who still dissembling the matter, demanded of Porrus if he would go see the ship: who unwilling and fearing the worst because he was not well acquainted with Capnio, made his excuse that he could not bryake the Sea, and therefore would not trouble him.

Capnio, seeing that by faire meanes he could not get his way, commaunded the Mariners, that by violence they should

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carried him into the ship, who like sturle knaves hoped the
poore shepheard on their backs, and bearing him to the boate,
lanched from the land.

Portus seeing himselfe so cunningly betrayed, durst not cry
out, for he sawe it would not p̄uaile: but began to intreate
Caphis and the Pariners to be good to him, and to pittie his
estate, he was but a poore man that liued by his labour: they
laughing to see the shepheard so affray, made as much hast as
they could, and set him aboard: Portus was no sooner in the ship,
but he told Dorastus walking with Fawnia, yet he scarce knew
her, for she had attyred herselfe in such apparrell, which so in-
creased her beautie: that she resembled rather an Angel, than a
creature.

Dorastus and Fawnia were halfe astonished to see the olde
shepheard, marnelling greatly what winde had brought him
thither; till Caphis told them all the whole discourse: how
Portus was going to make his complaint to the King, if by po-
licie he had not p̄uented him: and therefore now sith he was
aboard, for the auoyding of further danger, it were best to carry
him into Italy.

Dorastus praised greatly his mans deuise, and allotted of
his counsaile: but Fawnia (who still feared Portus as her Fa-
ther) began to blush for shame, that by her meanes hee should
either incurre danger or displeasure.

The olde shepheard hearing this hard sentence: that he should
on such a sodaine be carried from his wife; his countrey and
hinsfolke, into a foraine land amongst strangers, began with
bitter teares to make his complaint, & on his knees to intreat
Dorastus, that pardoning his vnadvised folly, hee would giue
him leave to goe home: Swearing that hee would keepe all
things as secret as hee could wish. But these protestations
could not p̄uaile, although Fawnia intreated Dorastus very
earnestly: but the Pariners hoisting their maine sailes wyped
Anchors, and hailed into the waie, where we leaue them to the
saugher of the winde and seas, and returns to Egistus.

Who hauing appointed this daye to hunt in one of his
forestes, called for his sonne Dorastus to goe spasse
himselfe

himselfe, because he saw that of late he began to looke: but his men made answer, that hee was gone abroade none knew whither, except he were gone to the groave to walke all alone as his custome was to do every day.

The King willing to waken him out of his dumes, sent one of his men to goe seek him, but in vaine: for at last he returned, but finde him he could not, so that the king went himselfe to goe for the sport: where passing away the day, returning at night from hunting, he asked for his son, but he could not be heard of, which brake the king into a great choller: whereupon most of his Noblemen and other Courtiers, passed abroade to seek him, but they could not heare of him through all Scycilia: onely they missed Capnio his man, which againe made the king suspect that he was not gone farre.

Two or three dayes being passed, and no newes heard of Dorastus, Egistus began to feare that he was deuoured with some wilde beasts, and vpon that made out great troupe of men to goe seek him: who coasted through all the Countrey, and searched in every dangerous and secret place, untill at last they mette with a Fisherman, that was sitting in a little couert hard by the Sea side mending his Nettes, when Dorastus and Fawnia took shipping: who being examined if he either knew or heard where the Kings son was, without any secrecie at all revealed the whole matter, how he was sayled two daies past, and had in his companie his man Capnio, Porrus, and his faire daughter Fawnia. This headie newes was presently carried to the King who halfe dead for sorrow, commaunded Porrus wife to be sent for: shee being come to the Pallace, after due examination, confessed that her neighbours had oft tolde her that the Kings sonne was so familiar with Fawnia her daughter: wherevpon her husband fearing the worst, about two dayes past (hearing the King should goe on hunting) tolde a story in the morning, and went to make his complaint, but since he neither heard of him, nor saw him. Egistus perceiving the womans vnfeigned simplicitie, let her depart without incurring further displeasure, concealing such secret grieffe for his sons wretched folly, that he had so forgotten his honour and Parentage, by so base a choice to disho-

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mour his father, and discredit himselfe; that with very care and thought he fell into a quartan feuer: which was so vnsitt for his aged yeares and complexion, that he became so weake, as the Physicians would grant him no life.

But his sonne Dorastus little regarded eether Father, countrey, or Kingdome, in respect of his Lady Fawnia: for sometime smiling on this yong newice, sent him so lucky a gale of wind, for the space of a day and a night, that the Mariners lay and slept vpon the hatches: but on the next morning about the break of the day, the aire began to overcast, the winds to rise, the seas to swell, yea presently there arose such a fearfull tempest, as the ship was in danger to be swallowed vp with enery sea, & maine mast with the violence of the wind was throwne ouer board, the sailes were torne, the tackling went in sunder, the storme raging still so furiously, that poore Fawnia was almost dead for feare; but that she was greatly comforted with the presence of Dorastus. The tempest continued thre dayes, all which time the Mariners enery minute looked for death, & the ayre was so darkned with cloudes, that the Maister could not tell by the compasse in what coast they were. But vpon the fourth day about ten of the clock, the wind began to cease, the sea to waxe calme, and the sky to be cleare, and the Mariners discryed the coast of Bohemia, throwing off their ordinance for joy that they had escaped such a fearefull tempest.

Dorastus hearing that they were arrined at some harbour, sweetly kissed Fawnia, and bad her be of god cheare: when they told him that the Port belonged vnto the chiefe Citie of Bohemia where Pandosto kept his Court, Dorastus beganne to be sad: knowing that his Father hated no man so much as Pandosto, and that the king himselfe had sought secretly to betray Egistus: this considered, he was halfe affrayd to goe on land, but that Capnio counsell'd him to change his name and his country, untill such time as they could get some other Marke to transporthem into Italie. Dorastus liking this device, made his case priuy to the Mariners, rewarding them bountifullly for their paines, and charging them to say, that he was a Gentleman of Trapolonia called Meleagrus. The Shipmen, willing to shew what friendship they could to Dorastus

Dorastus and Fawnia.

As, promised to be as secret as they could, or her might wish: and upon this, they lamped in a little Village a mile distant from the Citty: where, after they had rested a day, thinking to make provision for their marriage, the fame of Fawnias beautie was spread throughout all the Citty, so that it came to the eare of Pandosto: who then being about the age of fiftie, yet notwithstanding young and fresh affections: so that he desired greatly to see Fawnia: and to bring this matter the better to passe, hearing they had but one man, and how they rested at a very homely house, he caused them to be apprehended as spies, and sent a dozen of his Guard to take them: who being come to their lodging, told them the Kings message. Dorastus not whit dismayed, accompanied with Fawnia and Capnio, went to the Court (for they left Porrus to keepe the stuffe) who being admitted to the Kings presence, Dorastus and Fawnia with humble obeysance saluted his Maiestie.

Pandosto, amazed at the singuler persocation of Fawnia, stood halfe astonied, viewing her beauty, so that he had almost forgot himselfe what he had to doe: at last with sterne countenance he demaunded their names, and of what countrey they were, and what caused them to land in Bohemia? Sir (quoth Dorastus) know that my name is Meleagrus, a knight borne and brought up in Trapolonia, and this Gentlewoman, whom I meane to take to my wife, is an Italian borne in Padua, from whence I have now brought her. The cause I have so small a traine with me, is for that, her friends unwilling to consent, I intended secretly to convey her into Trapolonia, whither I was sayling, and by distresse of weather, I was driven into these coasts: thus have you heard my name, my Countrey, and the cause of my voyage. Pandosto starting from his seat as one in choler, made this rough reply.

Meleagrus, I feare this smooth tale hath but small truth, and that thou coverest a soule skin with faire paintings. No doubt this Lady, by her grace and beauty, is of higher degree, more meete for a mighty Prince, than for a simple knight: and thou like a perjured traytor hast bereft her of her Parents, to their present griefe, and her ensuing sorrow. All therefore I beare more of her parentage, and of her calling, I will say you both

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both here in Bohemia, in Dorastus, in whom rested nothing but Kingly valour, was not able to suffer the reproches of Pandosto, but that he made him this answer.

It is not meete for a King, without due cause to approach any man of ill behaviour, nor upon suspicion to inferre beliers: strangers ought to be entertained with courtesie: not to be treated with cruelty, least being forced by want to put up injuries, the Gods revenge their cause with rigor.

Pandosto hearing Dorastus utter these wordes, commanded that he should straight be committed to prison, untill such time as they heard further of his pleasure: but as for Fawnia, he charged that she should be entertained in the Court, with such courtesie as belonged to a stranger and her calling. The rest of the shipmen he put into the Dungeon.

During this hardie handling the supposed Trapalonian: Pandosto contrary to his aged years began to be somewhat tickled with the beauty of Fawnia, inso much that he could take no rest, but cast in his old head a thousand new venises: at last he fell into these thoughts.

How art thou pestered Pandosto with fresh affections and husst fancies, wishing to possesse with an untwilling mind, and a hote desire troubled with a colde disdain: Shall thy mind yeld in age to that thou hast resisted in youth? Peace Pandosto, blabbe not out that which thou maist be ashamed to reueale to thy selfe. Ah, Fawnia is beautifull, and it is not for thine honour (sonde soule) to name her that is thy captiue, and another mans Concubine. Blas, I reach at that with my hand, which my heart would faine refuse: playing like the boye Ibis in Egypt, which hauey Serpents, yet sauey on her Eggs.

Lust, hote desires turnes oftentimes to colde disdain: Love is brittle, where appetite, not reason, beares the sway: Kings thoughts ought not to climb so high as the heauens, but to lye no lower than bottom: better it is to picke at the starres with the young Eagles, than to prey on dead carcases with the

the Vulture: tis more honourable for Pandosto to dye by con-
cealing Loue, than to enioy such vnstable Loue. Woth Pand-
osto than loue? Pca: whom? A mayde vnknowne, yea and
perhaps, immodest, straggled out of her owne countrey: be-
littell, but not therefore chaste: comely in body, but perhaps
runked in minde. Cease then Pandosto to looke at Fawnia,
much lesse to loue her: he not overtaken with a womans beati-
tie, whose eyes are framed by art to enamour, whose heart is
framed by nature to enchant: whose false teares know their
true tincts, and whose sweet woordes pierce deeper than sharpe
swords: Here ceaseth Pandosto fro his talk, but not from his loue:
for although hee sought by reason, and wisdom, to suppress
this franticke affection: yet he could take no rest, the beautie
of Fawnia had made such a deepe impression in his heart: But
on a day walking abroade into a Parke which was hard ad-
ioyning to his house, he sent by one of his seruants for Fawnia,
unto whom he uttered these woordes.

FAWNIA, I commend thy beautie and wilt, and note pittie
thy distresse and want: but if thou wilt forsake Sir Me-
liagrus (whose pouertie, though a Knight, is not able to main-
taine an estate answerable to thy beautie) and yield thy con-
sent to Pandosto, I will both increase thee with dignities and
riches. So sir, answered Fawnia, Meliagrus is a Knight
that hath wonne me by loue, and none but he shall weare me:
his sinister mischaunce shall not diminish my affection, but
rather increase my good will: thinke not though your Grace
hath imprisoned him without cause, that feare shall make me
yeld my consent: I had rather be Meliagrus wife, and a beg-
ger, than liue in plenty, and be Pandosto's Concubine: Pan-
dosto hearing the assured answer of Fawnia, wroth, not-
withstanding, prosecute his suit to the uttermost, reasoning with
faire woordes and great promises to seate her in the heart of his
chamber: swearing that if she would grant to his desire, Meliagrus
should not onely be set at libertie, but honored in the Court
amongst his Nobles: but these alluring baites, could not intice
her minde from the loue of her now betrothed Spouse Melia-
grus: which Pandosto seeing, he left her alone by that time to

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consider me one of the beinge: Fawnia beinge alone by her selfe began to offer into these solitary meditations.

A Vnfortunate Fawnia, thou seest, to desire aboue fortune, to to strue aboue Gods and fortune. Who gazeth at the sunne, weakeneth his sight: they which stare at the skie, fall into deepe pitfes: haddest thou rested content to haue bene a shepheard, thou needest not to haue feared mischance: better had it been for thee, by sitting lowe, to haue had quiet, than by climbing high, to haue fallen into misery. But alas, I feare not mine owne daunger, altho Dorastus displeasure. My sweet Dorastus, thou art a Prince, but now a Prisoner, by too much loue, procuring thine owne losse: haddest thou not loved Fawnia, thou haddest bene fortunate. Shall I then be false to him that hath forsaken Kingdomes for my cause? No, would my death might deliuer him, so mine honour might be preserved. With that, fetching a deepe sigh, she ceased fro her complaints and went againe to the Pallace, enioying a liberty without content, offered pleasure with smarting. But worse Dorastus lay at this while in close prison, being pinched with a hard constraint and pained with the burden of cold and heauie Irons, sorrowing sometimes that his sonde affection had procured him this mishap, that by the disobedience of his Parents, he had wrought his owne despight: another while cursing the Gods and fortune, that they should crosse him with such sinister chance, bitering at last his passions with these words.

A Vnfortunate wretch! howe to mishap; now thy folly hath his desert: art thou not worthy for thy base mind, to haue bene fortunate? Could the deities fauour thee; which hath forgot thine honour and dignitie: will not the Gods plague him with despight, that paineth his father with disobedience? Oh Gods, if any fauour or iustice be left, plague me, but fauour my Fawnia, and shew her from the tyrannies of wretched Pandosto: but let my death free her from mishap. & then in euen death, Dorastus payned with these heauie passions, sorrowed and sighed; but in vain, for which he used with more patience. But againe to Pandosto, who bawling at the heate of vniuersall loss, could take no rest, but still felt his minde piqued

Dorastus and Fawnia.

with his new loue, so that his Nobles and subiects marvelled greatly at this suddaine alteration, not being able to coniecture the cause of this his continued care. Pandosto thinking euerie houre a yeare till he had talked once againe with Fawnia, sent for her secretly into his chamber: whither though Fawnia unwillingly coming, Pandosto entertained her with courteous, vsing these familiar speeches, which Fawnia answered as shortly in this wise.

Pandosto.

Fawnia, are you become lesse wilfull and more wise, to preferre the loue of a King before the liking of a poore Knight? I thinke yes this you think it is better to be favoured of a King, than of a Subject.

Fawnia.

Pandosto, the bodie is subject to victories, but the minde not to be subdued with conquest: honestie is to be preferred before honour, and a dram of faith weigheth downe a Tun of gold. I haue promised Meleagrus to loue, and will perforce no less.

Pandosto.

Fawnia, I know thou art not so vnwise in thy choise, as to refuse the offer of a King, nor so ingratefull as to despise a good turne: thou art now in that place where I may command, and yet thou seest I intreat: my power is such, that I may compell by force, and yet I sue by prayers. Would Fawnia thou loue to him which burneth in thy loue, Meleagrus should be set free, the Countrey men discharged, and thou both loved and honoured.

Fawnia.

I see Pandosto, where lust ruleth, it is a miserable thing to be a virgin: but know this, that I will alwaies preferre fame before life, and rather chuse death, than dishonour.

Pandosto seeing that there was in Fawnia a determinate courage to loue Meleagrus: and a resolution without feare to hate him: being away from her in a rage, he swears that if in any time she would not be won by reason, he would forget all civillie, and compell her to grant by rigor. But these threatening words no whit dismayed Fawnia: but that she still both

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despighted & despised Pandosto. While thus these two lovers
 stroue, the one to winne loue, the other to liue in hate: Eg-
 sus heard certaine newes by Sparchants of Bohemia, that
 his Son Dorastus, was imprisoned by Pandosto: which made
 him soare greatly, that his Sonne should be but hardly in crea-
 ted: yet considering that Bellaria and he was cleared by the
 Oracle of Apollo, from the crime wherewith Pandosto had
 vniustly charged them: he thought best to send with all speed
 to Pandosto, that he should set free his Sonne Dorastus, and
 put to death Faunus and her father Porrus. Finding this, by
 the aduise of counsell, the spadiell reiner to release his Son,
 he caused presently two of his ships to be rigged and through-
 ly furnished with provision of men and victuals, and sent vi-
 cers of his Nobles, Embassadors into Bohemia: who, willing
 to obey the King, and recouer their young Prince, made no
 delayes, for feare of danger, but with as much speed as might
 be, sayled towards Bohemia: the winde and seas favoured
 them greatly, which made their hope of some good happe:
 for within thre dayes they were landed: which Pandosto no
 sooner heard of their arrivall, but he in person went to meet
 them, increasing them with such sumptuous and familiar
 conuells, that they might well perceiue how soere he was in
 the former injuries he had offered to their King, and how wil-
 ling (if it might be) to make amends: As Pandosto made
 report to them, how one Meleagrus a Knight of Trapholonia
 was lately arrived with a Lady called Faunus in his land, &
 which he so suspiciously accompanied onely with one seruant,
 and an olde shepheard: the Embassadors perceiued by the
 halfe, what the whole tale meant, and began to coniecture that
 it was Dorastus, who for feare to be knowne, had changed
 his name. But dissembling the matter, they shortly arrived at
 the Court, where after they had been very solemnly & sumptu-
 ously treated, the Noblemen of Sicilia being gathered together,
 they made report of their Embassage: where they certified
 Pandosto that Meleagrus was Sonne and heire to the King
 Egilus, and that his name was Dorastus: and how contrary
 to the Kings mind he had privately conveyed away that Faunus
 intending to marry her, being but daughter to that poore shep-
 heard

heard Portus, whereupon the Kings request was, that Capnio, Fawnia, and Portus, might be murdered and put to death, and that his Sonne Dorastus might be sent home in safetie. Pandosto hauing attentiuely and with great maruaile heard their Embassage, willing to reconcile himselfe to Egistus, and to shew him how greatly he esteemed his fauor: although lone and fancie so had him to hurt Fawnia, yet in despite of lone he determined to execute Egistus will without mercy, & therefore he presently sent for Dorastus out of prison: who marnelling at his haloked for certesse, found at his comming to the Kings presence, that which he least doubted of, his fathers Embassadors: who no sooner saw him, but with great reuerence they honoured him: and Pandosto embracing Dorastus, set him by him very louingly in a chaire of estate. Dorastus ashamed that his folly was betrayed, sate a long time as one in a myze, till Pandosto told him the sum of his fathers Embassage: which he had no longer heard; but he was toucht at the quicke for the cruell sentence that was pronounced against Fawnia: but neither could his sorrows nor persuasions preuaile: for Pandosto commaunded that Fawnia, Portus, and Capnio, should be brought to his presence: who were no sooner come, but Pandosto hauing his former lone turned into disdainfull hate, began to rage against Fawnia, in these termes.

Thou disdainfull basell, thou curriish wite, assigned by the
destiny to base fortune, and yet with an aspiring mind
gazing after honour: how durst thou presume being a beggar,
to match with a Prince. By thy alluring looks to enchant
the Son of a King, to leane his owne countrey to fulfill thy dis-
ordinate lusts: O despitefull mind, a proud heart in a beggar
is not vnlike to a great fire in a small cottage, which warmeth
not the house, but burneth it: assure thy selfe thou shalt die, and
thou wilt be a foote sole, whose folly hath bene such, as to suffer
thy daughter to reach about thy Fortune: looke for no other
meede, but the like punishment. But Capnio, thou which hast
betrayed the King, and hast consented to the vnlawfull lust of
thy Lord and Maister, I know not how justly I may plague
the: death is too easie a punishment for thy fault, and to line

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life, (if not in extreme miserie) were not so helpe the equitie
 If therefore a Ward that thou shalt haue thine eyes put out, and
 continually fill thou thyselfe, grinde in a Mill like a brute beast.
 The feare of death brought a short while silence vpon Fawnia
 and Caprio: but Porcius seeing no hope of life, burst forth into
 these speeches.

P Andro, and the Noble Embassadors of Syccilia, seeing
 without cause I am condemned to die: I am yet glad I
 haue opportunity to discharge my conscience before my death:
 I will tell you as much as I know, and yet no more than is
 true: whereas I am accused that I haue been a supporter of
 Fawnias pride, and shee disoayned as a vile beggar, so it is that
 I am neither Father vnto her, nor the Daughter vnto me.

III For it so hapned that I being a poore Shepheard in Syccilia,
 dining by sleeping other mens flocks: one of my sheepe straying
 downe to the seashore, as I went to seek her, I saw a little
 boate lying vpon the shoare, wherein I found a Babe of five
 dayes old, wrapped in a mantle of scarlet, having about the
 necke this chaîne: I pittying the Child, and desirous of the
 Treasure, carried it home to my wife, who with great care
 nurst it up, and set it to keepe sheepe: Here is the chaîne and
 the Jewels, and this Fawnia is the Child whom I found in the
 boate: what she is, or of what parentage I know not: but this
 I am assured of, that she is none of mine.

III Andro soearely would suffer him to tell out his tale, but
 that he required the time of the yeres: the manner of the boate,
 and other circumstances: which when he had agreed to his
 count, he suddenly leapt from his seate, and kissed Fawnia,
 kissing her tender cheekes with his teares, and crying, my
 Daughter Fawnia, my sweet Fawnia, I am thy Father, Faw-
 nia. This louable passion all the King hearkned them all into a
 rage, especially Fawnia and Dorastus. But when the King
 had breathed himselfe a while in this new toy he rehearsed be-
 fore the Embassadors the whole matter, and how he had in-
 treated his wife Bellaria for Ielousie, and this was the child
 whom he sent to float in the sea.

Fawnia was not more ioyfull that she had found such a Fa-
 ther,

Dorastus and Fawnia.

ther, than Dorastus was glad he should get such a wife. The Embassadors reioyced that their yong Prince had made such a choise: that those Kingdomes which througħ enmitie had long time bene disseuered, should now througħ perpetuall amitie be vnited and reconciled. The Citizens and subiects of Bohemia (hearing that the King had found againe his daughter, which was supposed dead, ioyfull that there was an heire apparant to the Kingdome) made bonefiers and shewes througħout the Citie: The Courtiers and Knights appointed Iustes and Turnepes, to signifie their willing mindes in gratifying the Kings hap.

Eightene dayes being past in these Princely sports, Pandolto willing to recompence olde Porrus, of a Shepheard made him a Knight: which done, prouiding a sufficient Manie to receiue him and his retinue, accompanied with Dorastus, Fawnia, and the Sycilian Embassadors, he sayled towards Sycilia, where he was most princely entertained by Egistus: who hearing this comicall euent, reioyced greatly at his Sonnes good hap, and without delay (to the perpetuall ioy of the two yong Louers) celebrated the marriage. Which was no soner ended, but Pandolto (calling to minde how first he betrayed his friend Egistus, how his tealonie was the cause of Bellariacs death, that contrarie to the lawe of Nature he had lusted after his owne Daughter) moued with these desperate thoughts, he fell in a melancholy fit, and to close vp the Comedie with a Tragical stratageme, he slew himselfe: whose death being many dayes bewailed of Fawnia, Dorastus, and his deere friend Egistus: Dorastus taking leaue of his Father, went with his wife and the dead Corps into Bohemia: where, after they were sumptuously intombed, Dorastus ended his dayes in contented quiet.

FINIS.